



## State of Connecticut

### SENATE

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Senator Andrew Roraback  
Testimony before the Energy and Technology Committee  
March 20, 2012

Good Morning Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, Senator Witkos, Representative Hoydick, and members of the Energy and Technology Committee. For the record I am State Senator Andrew Roraback, I represent the 30<sup>th</sup> State Senate District, comprised of 15 towns in Northwest Connecticut. I am here today to support section 4 of HB 5544.

Section 4 requires that cell towers and antenna have a back up generators attached to them. This section also requires that the telecommunication company be responsible for providing fuel to these back up generators for up to 72 hours. This past fall, Connecticut saw two severe storms within a few weeks of each other. As a result of these storms many parts of the state suffered prolonged power outages. As a result of these power outages, many cell towers lost service and providers were left scrambling to get back up generators out to the towers.

More and more people use their cell phone as their primary phone, and with the loss of service, they were unable to call 911. This legislation would ensure that people would have uninterrupted cell service for several days after a power outage. As storm response legislation continues to move through this committee I urge continued support for requiring back up generators at cell tower locations.

Thank you,

Andrew Roraback  
State Senator, 30<sup>th</sup> District